

# CONGRESSMAN ROD BLUM

1<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF IOWA



**SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION**

**2018 APPLICATION PACKET**

**CLASS OF 2023**

**ENTERING SUMMER 2019**

**COMPLETED APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**OCTOBER 30, 2018**



## CONGRESSMAN ROD BLUM

1<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

WASHINGTON DC. DUBUQUE. CEDAR RAPIDS. CEDAR FALLS

308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401

Phone: 319-364-2288

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### **Service Academy Congressional Nomination Application**

By receiving this packet you have taken the first of several official steps toward becoming a military academy graduate and helping lead the future of our great nation. Please carefully follow the instructions provided. Be as thorough and timely in all of your submittal as possible.

#### **Basic Requirements:**

1. You MUST:
  - Be of good moral character
  - Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed your 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.
    - NOTE: For Merchant Marine – must not have passed your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday before July 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of entrance.
  - Be a United States citizen at the time of entrance to the academy.
  - Be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
  - Be a resident within the boundaries of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Iowa
  - Meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements and high standards of each academy.
  - Never been convicted of violating a state or federal statute.
2. You MUST contact the academy of your choice to request a pre-candidate application. In order for our review board to consider your application for your nomination, you need to have an open application file with that specific academy.
  - U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York [www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu)
  - U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu)
  - U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs [www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil)
  - U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York [www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)
  - U.S. Coast Guard Academy (No congressional nomination is required) [www.uscga.edu](http://www.uscga.edu)

**NOTE:** As you know, the honor of attending a Service Academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

3. You are encouraged to apply to every nominating authority available to you. Please note that each office has different procedures, therefore read all instructions carefully.

- Congressman Rod Blum [www.blum.house.gov](http://www.blum.house.gov)
- Senator Chuck Grassley [www.grassley.senate.gov](http://www.grassley.senate.gov)
- Senator Joni Ernst [www.ernst.senate.gov](http://www.ernst.senate.gov)

### **Application Information:**

The application needs to be sent either by email to the congressional staffer who is the point of contact for Congressman Blum or the application can be mailed to the Cedar Rapids office as soon as possible.

1. Transcripts:

- Official high school transcripts that include your course listing, current GPA, grades, and class rank needs to be mailed to the Cedar Rapids office by your guidance counselor.
- If you are enrolled in college, university, or academy prep school, please ask them to mail a current official transcript as well.

2. Entrance Exams:

- You are required by the service academies and your committee to participate in either the SAT or the ACT. Arrangements to take these tests may be made through your high school guidance officer or by writing directly to the following address:
  - Registration Department  
American College Testing Program  
PO Box 414  
Iowa City, IA 52240
- Request that the official SAT or ACT results be mailed to the Cedar Rapids Congressional office.
  - SAT Code: TBA
  - ACT Code: TBA

- **Our office MUST receive the official test scores.** Scores on transcripts do not meet this requirement. Please be advised that it takes **several weeks** for our office to **receive your test scores** so please plan accordingly.
  - It is highly advised that you take the college entrance exams as many times as possible before our October deadline to achieve the highest score and have that score sent to our office for your service academy congressional nomination package.
3. Recommendation Forms:
- The Academic Recommendation form needs to be completed and mailed to the Cedar Rapids office, or emailed to the congressional staffer who is coordinating the nomination process. **The recommendation forms need to be mailed or emailed by the recommender themselves.**
  - Three recommendation forms must be completed by people that know you well and are not members of your family. Some ideas of people that can write a recommendation for you is a religious leader, teacher, coach, employer, or any leader of an organization you may volunteer for. Be very selective in who you ask to make a recommendation on your behalf.
4. Essay:
- Two 500 word essays, typed and double-spaced, must be submitted.
    - Your first essay needs to answer the following questions:
      - Why do you want to attend a military academy and service as an officer in the United States Armed Forces?
      - Why should you receive a congressional nomination?
    - Your second essay should answer the following question:
      - What are your short term goals and your long term goals over the next ten years (career, personal, family)?
5. Deadline:
- The completed application packet must be received in the Cedar Rapids office or emailed to the Service Academy Coordinator by the close of business on October 30, 2018 (**Post mark dates must be before October 30th, 2018**)

Congressman Rod Blum  
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401

6. Interview:
- If you meet the minimum requirements you may be scheduled for an interview with Congressman Blum's Service Academy Nomination Selection Board in the beginning of November.

Please keep in mind it is **YOUR responsibility** to verify that you have completed the entire application and checklist for the service academy congressional nomination before the deadline date of October 30, 2018. The Service Academy Coordinator will send out periodic update emails and reminders however, you will need to be proactive in getting your package completed and all required documentation is received and given to our office. You may email the coordinator at their email address or you may call 319-364-2288 to verify your package is complete and/or what you need to do to complete your package.

**\*\*Students need to be in continuous communication with the Service Academy Coordinator. We encourage parental involvement, but we do request students show initiative and responsibility, two key characteristics that the Congressman requires as well as the Service Academies require and desire for future military leaders.**

### **Helpful Hints:**

- Register with each academy in which you have an interest; applying to one academy does not mean that you have applied to all four.
- Obtain the appropriate paperwork from the academy for your DODMERB medical exam. Once this is completed by your medical physician, return it promptly to the academy.
- Confirm that each portion of the application packet has been received and that your file is complete.
- **Please note that a completed application does NOT guarantee an interview.**
- Once your interview date has been offered, it cannot be rescheduled. Therefore, keep the date open on your calendar.
- Update Congressman Blum's office with SAT/ACT scores, senior year leadership positions, or important correspondence from the academy via email to the Service Academy Coordinator.

## **Applicant Checklist:**

- ☐ Application and recent photo submitted to Service Academy Coordinator
- ☐ Application to Service Academies submitted
- ☐ Physical Aptitude Exam taken
- ☐ SAT/ACT test scores submitted
- ☐ Transcripts submitted
- ☐ Academic recommendation forms completed and submitted by Principal or Guidance Counselor.
- ☐ Three recommendation forms submitted
- ☐ Essays completed and submitted
- ☐ DODMERB Medical Exam taken



## CONGRESSMAN ROD BLUM

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

WASHINGTON DC, DUBUQUE, CEDAR RAPIDS, CEDAR FALLS

308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401

Phone: 319-364-2288  
Fax: 319-364-2994

### Please Type or Print Legibly

**Full Legal Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

**Address in the 1<sup>st</sup> District:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**IA County:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Congressional District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above) (Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a legal resident of Iowa?** \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No **SS#** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Height:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Weight:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s)/ Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Day time phone number of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### **ACADEMY PREFERENCE**

Academy of Choice (*number in order of preference*):

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Air Force Academy

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Military Academy

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Naval Academy

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

***\*\*Please note that graduation from a service academy obligates you to 5 years of active duty service. \*\****

I am also seeking the following nomination:

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Grassley \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Ernst

### **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

College or Prep School Attended (*if Applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (unweighted): \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Top \_\_\_\_\_ %)

SAT Scores: Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_

ACT Scores: Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_

***\*\*Qualifying scores must be met by deadline\*\****

I plan to take /retake the SAT/ACT on \_\_\_\_\_



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please list all school related groups or clubs as well as leadership positions you held and awards you received. **(Resumes will not be accepted as a substitute)**

Activity/ Organization	Position(s) Held/ Leadership	Years Involved	Awards/ Honors

## VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please list any and all participation in groups or clubs which are not school sponsored (Tutoring, Habitat for Humanity, Church groups).

Activity/ Organization	Position(s) Held/ Leadership	Years Involved	Awards/ Honors

## HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Sport	Position(s) Held/ Leadership	Grade Level	Awards/ Honors

## HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC HONORS

Please list any academic honors you have received that have not been previously mentioned.

Honor/Award	Grade Received

## **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING**

I have read the information contained in this packet explaining the nomination procedures of Congressman Rodney Blum.

I request that Congressman Blum consider my application for a Congressional Nomination to the United States Service Academy or Academies that I have listed.

I understand the Congressman's requirements:

- The deadline for completed applications is **October 30, 2018**. If I have not submitted all of the requested information by the deadline, I understand that my application will **NOT** be given consideration.
- The personal interview that may be offered to me will be held the beginning or middle of November.

I certify that I am a legal resident of the 1<sup>st</sup> district of Iowa, that I have never been convicted of violating a state or federal statute, and that, if I am nominated, there is no known reason I should not be medically qualified to receive an appointment to a service academy.

**In signing this form, you are stating that you understand the nomination requirements for the office of U.S. Representative Rodney Blum and that you will abide by these requirements.**

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*(Signature)*

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*(Date)*

Congressman Rod Blum  
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401



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### RECOMMENDATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### **Distinguished Recommender:**

The student who has requested that you fill out a recommendation form for him/her is applying for a nomination for admittance into one of our United States Service Academies. The academies are interested in not only the individual's academic abilities, but also that the individual is a well-rounded student with strong leadership qualities, good character, and physical fitness. Upon graduation from the Service Academy, these students will be commissioned officers in our United States military. This is a very important request and we appreciate your complete and honest evaluation. Please be assured your comments are for the sole use of the Congressman's staff and our academy panelists.

#### **High School Principal or Guidance Counselor:**

We have included a short Academic Recommendation form for your completion. It is imperative that we receive the candidate's ACT and/or SAT scores, school transcripts, and class ranking or approximation if your school does not have a ranking system.

We appreciate your time in assisting us. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call 319-364-2288 and speak with our Service Academy Coordinator.

**Our application deadline is October 30, 2018. After this date no recommendations will be accepted and the candidate's file will be considered incomplete.**

Please mail the recommendation to:

Congressman Rod Blum  
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401



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### ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATION

This form must be completed by a high school guidance counselor or principal. Completion of this form is a requirement for nomination consideration. **Application deadline is October 30, 2018.**

**Full Name of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

**Name of High School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**School Phone:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Applicant's SS#:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Year in School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unweighted GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Weighted GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Honors Classes:** Y/N **AP Class:** Y/N **IB Program:** Y/N

**SAT Scores:** Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ **ACT Scores:** Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_

**Numerical Class Rank/Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (Required information. Estimate if necessary)

Please honestly rate the candidate in the following areas:

QUALITIES	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Teamwork				
Honesty				
Leadership				
Initiative				
Interaction with Peers				
Response to Criticism				
Ability to Handle Stress				
Overall Character				

**\*\* You may submit a letter for the applicant in addition to completing this form if you wish to do so. \*\***

**General Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form with an official school transcript and ACT and/or SAT scores to:**

Congressman Rod Blum  
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401



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### RECOMMENDATION FOR SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION

**NOTE TO CANDIDATE:** Please enter your name, social security number, and legal residence below as it appears on your application. Give this form to the person who will be writing the recommendation.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

**SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**NOTE TO RECOMMENDER:** The person whose name appears above is applying for nomination for admission to one of the United States Service Academies. The purpose of the academies is to provide the education and training necessary for young men and women to become military officers. The questions posed below will be helpful in the selection process. Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the applicant. Your generous assistance in giving this recommendation is very helpful and greatly appreciated. Please mail this form and any additional information to:

Congressman Rod Blum  
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator  
308 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids IA, 52401

**How long have you known the applicant and what is your relationship?**

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**What do you consider to be the applicant's strengths?**

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**What do you consider to be the applicant's greatest struggle?**

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**Do you know of any personal circumstances or conditions, which might affect the applicant's ability to perform at a Service Academy? If yes, please explain.**

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**Please give your appraisal of the applicant in terms of the qualities listed below:**

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	POOR
Honesty				
Attention to Detail				
Initiative				
Teamwork				
Leadership				
Response to Criticism				
Self Motivation				
Maturity				
Overall Character				

**Please comment on the ratings you have given above, and make any additional statements about the applicant. You may elect to submit a letter of recommendation in addition to this form.**

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**RECOMMENDER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDER'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_